

## **Development Policy Senior Policy Analyst Personal Services Contractor (PSC) Opportunity**

### **Policy and International Relations Department**

The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is a U.S. Government corporation whose mission is to provide assistance that will support economic growth and poverty reduction in carefully selected developing countries. Selected countries must demonstrate a commitment to just and democratic governance, economic freedom, and investments in their citizens.

The Policy and International Relations Department, Development Policy Division (DP) manages the selection process, country performance data, and the policy indicators used to evaluate countries' policy performance. DP is responsible for identifying policy issues, analyzing alternative approaches and recommending strategies for the most effective execution of MCC's mission to reduce poverty through sustainable economic growth. Working closely with other USG agencies, DP develops recommendations on how MCC can best leverage MCA assistance to encourage countries to undertake reforms in governance and economic policies, to create a suitable environment for development assistance and a platform for economic growth and poverty reduction. DP develops and maintains relationships with the development community, including think tanks, NGOs, academics, policy institutes and others, to integrate innovative ideas, best practices and strategies for effective development assistance throughout MCC's policies, thinking and operations.

The Development Policy and Threshold Program Divisions of the Policy and International Relations Department requires a short term (up to 4 month), part-time intermittent Personal Services Contractor to assist with MCC's annual selection process from September, 2009 – January 31, 2010. The resultant contract will contain a base period of 4 months, plus options for as many as 56 months of additional support services. This PSC would assist with policy analysis of candidate countries, analysis of country performance data, writing and editing policy overviews for MCC's Board of Directors, summarizing policy concerns and highlighting key issues in memorandum and discussions with MCC senior management. This PSC will also provide backstopping support for the Threshold Division, and assist with program oversight of selected country programs as needed.

#### **MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS**

- Success in obtaining a Federal security clearance.
- United States citizenship

#### **BACKGROUND**

MCC's Development Policy division manages and executes the annual country selection process. To select countries as eligible for Millennium Challenge Account funding, MCC assesses the degree to which the political, social and economic conditions in a country promote broad-based sustainable economic growth. MCC uses third-party indicators to identify countries with policy environments that will allow Millennium Challenge Account funding to be effective in reducing poverty and promoting economic growth.

MCC evaluates performance in three areas – Ruling Justly, Investing in People, and Encouraging Economic Freedom – using 17 policy indicators. The following is a list of the indicators used by MCC: Civil Liberties (Freedom House), Political Rights (Freedom House), Voice and Accountability (World Bank Institute), Government Effectiveness (World Bank Institute), Rule of Law (World Bank Institute), Control of Corruption (World Bank Institute), Immunization Rates (World Health Organization), Public Expenditure on Health (World Health Organization), Girls’ Primary Education Completion Rate (UNESCO), Public Expenditure on Primary Education (UNESCO and national sources), Natural Resource Management (CIESIN and YCELP), Business Start-Up (IFC), Land Rights and Access (IFAD and IFC), Trade Policy (Heritage Foundation), Regulatory Quality (World Bank Institute), Inflation (IMF WEO), and Fiscal Policy (IMF country reports and national sources, cross-checked with IMF WEO).

The Board may also consider information to address gaps, time lags, measurement error, or other weaknesses in the indicators to assist in assessing whether MCC funds might reduce poverty and promote economic growth in a country. MCC staff collect and analyze the country performance data of candidate countries for the Board’s consideration.

## **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS & ABILITIES**

At a high level the incumbent of this position should have experience working with developing countries on policy reform; analytical, communication and writing skills; and working knowledge of MCC’s selection process and eligibility criteria.

- Knowledge of U.S. Government development assistance and MCC’s model.
- Knowledge of institutional, legal, regulatory and policy reform in the developing countries that are candidates for MCC assistance.
- Experience working with foreign government representatives in these reform areas including travel to MCC candidate countries.
- Knowledge of MCC’s annual country selection process, MCC’s eligibility criteria, and the indicators MCC’s uses to assess country policy performance.
- Ability to analyze and assess countries’ policy performance on these criterion, communicate orally and in writing these assessments.
- Ability to complete and coordinate multiple, high priority taskings and coordinate input from colleagues in MCC across the U.S. Government.

## **Evaluation Criteria**

- Minimum education is a master's degree in international development, foreign affairs, or international economics.
- Demonstrated 10 years experience working in the field of international development assistance. Preference given to MCC, USAID, or State Department experience.
- Knowledge of MCC, its annual selection process, and the indicators MCC uses.
- Written and oral communication skills including analytical assessment, document preparation, and editing.
- Cost

## **How to Apply**

Interested parties should submit by email to [recruitment@mcc.gov](mailto:recruitment@mcc.gov) the following package: 1) Curriculum Vitae, 2) a brief cover letter that addresses the desired qualifications and provides three professional or academic references, 3) salary history over the past 3 years; and (4) fully loaded hourly salary rate requirement. Please include "Development Policy - PSC" in the subject line of your email. First cut off for applications is September 8, 2009, however the announcement is open continuously until the position is filled.